

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church xxxxxxxx f
Stockbridge, Massachusetts**

January 9, 2022 – The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

Shall We Gather at the River?

Today we remember the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River almost 2,000 years ago. We are often instructed in the liturgy to remember our baptism, which, for those of us who were baptized as infants, seems an absurd request. But what I hope we remember is the feeling of belonging to the church and to God from our earliest days. In baptism we are welcomed into the community of Christ and reminded again of the abundance of God's grace that we receive for no other reason than that we are.

Baptism is also an opportunity to remember the long procession of saints in each of our lives that have helped us know Christ's love and care. We gather not only at the living waters of God, symbolized in the baptismal font, but also at the ever-flowing and unending river of the faithful, a stream in which we too should be swept up. And, as the hymn reminds us, this river flows by the throne of God, where we can once more marvel at the majesty of God and recommit ourselves as children of the Light.

Welcome to St. Paul's, where we dare to step into the river of God's boundless love.

Collect

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

10:00 Service Music Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*

Prelude		<i>Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie</i>	Maurice Duruflé
Opening Hymn	512	Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove	<i>Mendon</i>
Sequence Hymn	449	O love, how deep, how broad, how high	<i>Deo Gracias</i>
Offertory Hymn:	121	Christ, when for us you were baptized	<i>Caithness</i>
Communion Voluntary		<i>Reflection</i>	Léon Boëllmann
Closing Hymn	616	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	<i>Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein</i>
Postlude		<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	Wayne L. Wold

Worship Teams (If you exchange shifts with someone, please notify the Church Office by Wednesday morning at office@stpaulsstockbridge.org.)

Today, January 9

Celebrant/
Preacher The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader Duncan Pollock
10:00 Usher/
Greeter Don Temples
10:00 Reader Kendra MacLeod

Next Sunday, January 16

Celebrant The Rev. Jane Tillman
Preacher The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader Rob Maloney
10:00 Usher/
Greeter Ryleigh Fillio
10:00 Reader Vaunie Gaulty

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

COVID Precautions

We strongly encourage everyone over the age of 5 who attends in-person services at St. Paul's to be fully vaccinated and be masked when attending worship in the church. These simple actions not only protect our communities by slowing the spread of the virus. Those who are not vaccinated are invited to worship with us online. (For links, visit our website, stpaulsstockbridge.org.) Thank you for helping keep us all safe!

Parish Prayer List

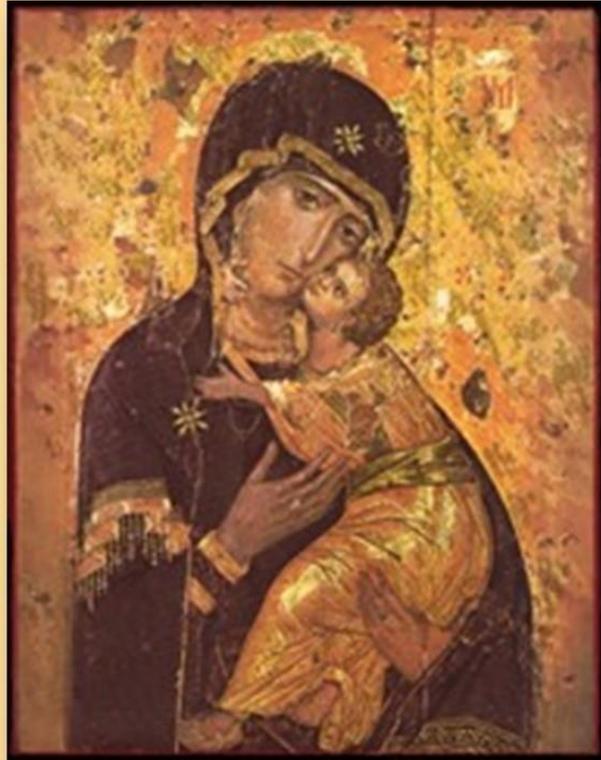
- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Charles, Helen, Jean, Greg**
 - Prayer for the repose of the souls of **Danielle Mashtare; Archbishop Desmond Tutu**
 - Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Rich, Karen, Michael, Ronnie, Tom, Khali, George, Doug, George, David, Barbara, Christy, John**
 - Our partners at Grace Church, Great Barrington and their priest Tina Rathbone; Christ Trinity Church, Episcopal-Lutheran, Sheffield and their priest Erik Karas; the Austen Riggs community and the Riverbrook Residence; victims of violence, abuse, persecution and disaster at home and abroad; those impacted by the pandemic
 - Outreach Ministry of the Week: **St. Paul's Children's Center**
 - Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Grace Episcopal, Amherst**
 - Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **Iglesia Anglicana de Chile**
 - Birthdays: **Chris Johnson** (Jan. 10th), **John Tedeschi** (Jan. 10th)
-

Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by providing altar flowers, the following Sundays are available: **Jan. 16; Feb. 6; June 5; Aug. 7; Sept 25; Dec.4.**

To sign up, please email stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com and tell us the date you'd like to reserve, the wording of the announcement, and whether or not you'd like the office to order the flowers for you (cost is \$60). Jean will be contacting those who have taken other dates in past years to see if they would like to continue the same floral tribute in 2022.

Community in Faith (Adult Education among our 3 churches)



Praying with Icons— A Winter Exploration

Though beautiful, icons are not simply works of art. We are invited not to look at them, so much as to look *through* them to the truth they seek to reveal. Icons, in other words, are created to be prayed with. Join us this Winter to learn about – and enter into – this ancient, contemplative practice.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams' simple – and revelatory – book: *Ponder These Things* will form the back-bone of our class, though other texts and images will also be featured. It is not necessary to have a copy of the book at home (and it is out of print, so very expensive, except over kindle).

The course will be led by The Rev. Tina Rathbone and is open to everyone and anyone who would like to join us. We will gather on zoom over four Tuesday evenings starting January the 18th at 7PM. Find the zoom link to join us below.

Come!

The Zoom link can be found in this week's E-pistle and on our website.